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Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Letter dated 18 October 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the joint press statement on Security Council reform issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the G4 countries, Brazil, Germany, India and Japan, on the occasion of their meeting in the margins of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly on 26 September 2013 (see annex). We would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 123.

As the G4 Ministers for Foreign Affairs recalled in the joint press statement, it has been almost 10 years since international leaders committed themselves, in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit, to an early reform of the Security Council. Security Council reform is long overdue. We would like to request your valuable support, allowing us to intensify efforts to translate the existing agreement into concrete outcomes by 2015, when the United Nations commemorates its seventieth anniversary.

(*Signed*) Antonio de Aguiar **Patriota**
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Peter **Wittig**
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Asoke K. **Mukerji**
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Motohide **Yoshikawa**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2013 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Germany, India and Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial meeting of the G4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) in the margins of the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly

Joint press statement

New York, 26 September 2013

1. The Minister of External Relations of Brazil, the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Minister of External Affairs of India and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan met in New York on 26 September 2013, in the margins of the opening of the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, to exchange views on Security Council reform.

2. The Ministers underscored that, almost 70 years after the creation of the United Nations, reform of the Security Council is long overdue. They agreed that difficulties of the Security Council in dealing with international challenges, including current ones, have further highlighted the need for United Nations Security Council reform in order to better reflect geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century and make the Council more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions. The Ministers recalled that almost 10 years ago, in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit, international leaders committed themselves to an early reform of the Security Council. The Ministers stressed the need to intensify efforts to translate, at the latest by 2015, the existing agreement into concrete outcomes.

3. Recalling previous G4 joint statements, the Ministers reiterated their common vision of a reformed Security Council, taking into consideration the contributions made by countries to the maintenance of international peace and security and other purposes of the organization, as well as the need for increased representation of developing countries in both categories of membership, in order to better reflect today's geopolitical realities. The G4 countries reiterated their commitments as aspiring new permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, as well as their support for each other's candidatures. They also reaffirmed their view of the importance of developing countries, in particular Africa, being represented in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of an enlarged Council. In this context, the Ministers emphasized the importance of enhancing dialogue and outreach with African countries on Security Council reform and commended the initiative of the Government of Japan in having convened the first Japan-Africa Summit Meeting on United Nations Security Council Reform in June 2013. In addition, the Ministers noted with appreciation the directive of CARICOM Heads of State and Government in February 2013 calling for "greater urgency in achieving lasting Security Council reform" and the initiative of CARICOM to reinvigorate the intergovernmental negotiation process.

4. The Ministers recognized the need for greater involvement of civil society, the media and academia in discussions about the reform of the Security Council and, in

this context, they welcomed the Brazilian initiative of hosting a seminar, in April 2013, to broaden the debate on the urgency and inevitability of the reform of the United Nations Security Council.

5. The Ministers also discussed the outcome of the ninth round of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. The Ministers emphasized the important role the chairman of the intergovernmental negotiations, H.E. Ambassador Zahir Tanin, played in the negotiations, notably reflected in his letter dated 25 July 2012 to the President of the General Assembly, and welcomed anew his recommendations contained therein. In this context, the Ministers reiterated that, given the overwhelming support of Member States for an expansion of the Security Council in both categories of membership, permanent and non-permanent, this should be a key parameter in the negotiation process among Member States. They called for the drafting of a concise working document as the basis for further negotiations, in line with the recommendations of the chairman.

6. The Ministers welcomed the decision by the General Assembly to immediately continue the process of intergovernmental negotiations in the informal plenary of the sixty-eighth session, building on the progress achieved and the recommendations made by the chairman. The Ministers underlined the need to achieve concrete progress at the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly and, in this context, expressed their commitment to continue to work in close cooperation and in a spirit of flexibility with other Member States and groups of Member States, in particular the African Group, in genuine text-based negotiations.

7. The Ministers expressed gratitude for the efforts made by the President of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic and the chairman of the intergovernmental negotiations, H.E. Ambassador Zahir Tanin. They looked forward to working closely with H.E. Mr. John Ashe, the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, and the chair of the intergovernmental negotiations in order to bring about the urgently needed reform of the Security Council.

Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado
Minister of External Relations of Brazil

Guido Westerwelle
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

Salman Khurshid
Minister of External Affairs of India

Fumio Kishida
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan